

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099118

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENNA 3533 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 02 MAY

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 3533

NODIS

FOR EUR: WARREN ZIMMERMANN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), AU

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO VIENNA: KREISKY VIEWS ON SOUTH
AFRICA

REF: STATE 098382

1. CHANCELLOR KREISKY, ALTHOUGH PUBLICLY OPPOSED TO PAPARTHEID,
HAS MADE FEW PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA OR THE
GENERAL POLITICAL SIUTUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AUSTRIA
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PAGE 02 STATE 099118

HAS VOTED WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN MOST SOUTH AFRICAN
ISSUES IN THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES BUT
ALWAYS AGAINST THE EXCLUSION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

2. WILLI BRANDT RECENTLY INDICATED THAT KREISKY MIGHT
ACCOMPANY A SPECIAL SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL FACT-FINDING
GROUP TO SOUTHERN AFRICA THAT IS TO BE LED BY FORMER SWEDISH

PRIME MINISTER, OLOF PALME. AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPER ARTICLES INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT KREISKY WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PARTICIPATING, BOTH BECAUSE HE IS NOT PARTICULARLY WELL INFORMED ABOUT AFRICA AFFAIRS AND BECAUSE HE DOES NOT WANT TO BE DIVERTED FROM HIS MISSION AND THE SPECIAL POSITION HE HAS CREATED FOR HIMSELF ON MIDDLE EAST AS HEAD OF THE SI FACT-FINDING GROUP TO THAT AREA.

3. IN MARCH 1975 THE FOREIGN MINISTRY INTERVENED ON ADMITTEDLY POLITICAL GROUNDS TO ASSURE AUSTRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM A \$400 MILLION STEEL MILL PROJECT IN SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE OF OBJECTIONS BY UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM (THEN CONTEMPLATING RE-ELECTION AS UN/SYG), AND BECAUSE OF THREATS OF A POSSIBLE BOYCOTT AGAINST AUSTRIA BY AFRICAN STATES. BIELKA, THEN FOREIGN MINISTER, SAID PROJECT WOULD NOT ONLY HAVE ANTAGONIZED THIRD WORLD BUT WOULD HAVE RUN COUNTER TO MORAL OBLIGATIONS RESULTING FROM UN DECISIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA. KREISKY LATER SAID DECISION WAS MADE ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS BUT HIS OWN ATTITUDE CLEARLY REFLECTED POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS. MEEHAN UNQTE VANCE

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